<u>CLAIMS</u>

1. A nucleic acid having the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO:3.

2. A polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid of claim 1.

3. A nucleic acid having the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO:4.

4. A polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid of claim 3.

5. A nucleic acid having the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO:7.

6. A polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid of claim 5.

7. An expression construct comprising a nucleic acid having a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 3, 4, and 7.

8. A host cell comprising the expression construct of claim 7.

9. A method of producing a polypeptide, comprising culturing the host cell of claim 8.

10. An expression construct comprising a portion of a nucleic acid having a portion of sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3 wherein said portion of said sequence lacks nucleotide sequences that encode a transmembrane domain of a polypeptide encoded thereby.

11. An expression construct comprising a portion of a nucleic acid having a portion of sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:4 wherein said portion of said sequence lacks nucleotide sequences that encode a transmembrane domain of a polypeptide encoded thereby.

12. An expression construct comprising a portion of a nucleic acid having a portion of sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:7 wherein said portion of said sequence lacks nucleotide sequences that encode a transmembrane domain of a polypeptide encoded thereby.

13. A host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 10.

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~~12.~~ A host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 11.

LL 10/16/04 15 ~~13.~~ A host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 12.

LL 10/16/04 16 ~~14.~~ A method of producing a soluble receptor fragment, comprising culturing the host cell of claim 11.

LL 10/16/04 17 ~~15.~~ A method of producing a soluble receptor fragment, comprising culturing the host cell of claim 12.

LL 10/16/04 18 ~~16.~~ A method of producing a soluble receptor fragment, comprising culturing the host cell of claim 13.

LL 10/16/04 19 ~~17.~~ A soluble receptor fragment, derived from a receptor selected from the group consisting of Edg-1, Edg-3, Edg-5, Edg-6, Edg-8, the Mil receptor, AXOR29, NRG1, SCaMPER and homologs and isoforms thereof.

LL 10/16/04 20 ~~18.~~ A method of screening for an agent for treating or preventing cardiovascular or cerebrovascular disease, comprising screening a library of compounds for agents that bind a receptor for sphingolipid or a sphingolipid metabolite.

LL 10/16/04 21 ~~19.~~ The method of claim 18 wherein said receptor is selected from the group consisting of Edg-1, Edg-3, Edg-5, Edg-6, Edg-8, the Mil receptor, AXOR29, NRG1, SCaMPER and homologs and isoforms thereof.

LL 10/16/04 22 ~~20.~~ The method of claim 18 wherein said receptor is encoded by SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, or SEQ ID NO:7.